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*** * * News Advisory * * ***

Sen. Kuipers to open hearings on state bidding process

Who: Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, and other members of the bipartisan taskforce looking at the state's bidding process.

What: The taskforce, chaired by Kuipers, will hear from Mitch Irwin, director of the Department of Management and Budget, about how the state conducts bidding for selling state land. Thursday's hearing is the taskforce's first.

When: 3 p.m., Thursday

Where: 210 Farnum Bldg.
125 W. Allegan St., Lansing

Briefing: The five members of the bidding-process taskforce were chosen by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema to review how state officials go about selling state land. Sikkema cited the complications of bids for the Northville Psychiatric Hospital and the bid by Toyota for state land in Ypsilanti as reasons for the need of the taskforce. The panel will look at the types of contracts put out for bid, costs associated with bids, no-bid contracts and the effectiveness of the governor's executive directives regarding departmental bidding.

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